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GLOBAL BROADBAND AND INNOVATION (GBI) PROGRAM

OCTOBER 2016 – OCTOBER 2019

\$1 MILLION

OVERVIEW

The objective of the GBI program is to support the Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) in rejuvenating its Telecom Development Fund (TDF). The USAID-financed effort supported the transition of ATRA's universal access program (TDF) from a voice telephone-oriented program to one bringing mobile and optical fiber broadband to underserved rural and urban communities throughout Afghanistan.

ACTIVITIES

- Increase transparency of governance and operations
- Consistent strategic and operational planning
- Review of previous studies regarding spectrum pricing and frequency allocations for 4G spectrum in Afghanistan
- Work with the spectrum expert contracted through the World Bank and follow up with the recommendations/suggestions provided
- Coordinate with ATRA the activities regarding the 4G spectrum assignment and provide timely recommendations in that regard
- Review the spectrum expert's final report and provide ATRA with an assessment of the recommendations, including spectrum pricing and the calculated reserve prices
- Attend the public consultations that will be conducted at different stages of the overall process and provide recommendations on responses to the interested parties
- Provide assistance in the preparation of the public bidding process if that is the path chosen by ATRA to assign 4G spectrum
- Provide recommendations on legal and technical matters regarding the assignment of 4G spectrum
- Provide recommendations on legal and technical matters regarding the assignment and licensing of 4G spectrum, including license rules and cybersecurity principles, standards and safeguards

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted Scope of Work for a financial audit of the TDF, conforming to Afghanistan's National Procurement Authority Standard Bidding Documents; provided Scope of Work to ATRA
- Updated procedures for the Manual of Operating Procedures; issued a draft trip summary (copied to USAID)
- Completed review of the latest Request for Proposals for the (remaining) 9th Rural Telecom Development (RTD) project
- Completed the assessment for implementation of the 4G spectrum

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